

## **STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 52**

### *\$2 Million to Hire Goats (not people) and Fight Weeds*

- Benewah County, Idaho recently received a \$2 million Stimulus grant for weed control. Heyburn State Park, located within the county, will use a portion of the \$2 million to fight weeds along Plummer Creek. Their solution? Renting 540 goats to graze on the weeds.
- The South African Boer goat is the “latest weapon” in Benewah County’s fight against invasive weeds. The goats have already been put to work munching on weeds like knapweed, tansy, and St. John’s wort. Each goat eats about 3 ½ pounds of weeds per day and should be finished pruning the creek shoreline within the next two weeks.
- The weed-eating goats have been rented from a local rancher, and the Park will use two South American herders to drive the herd up and down the creek. At a cost of \$1 per goat per day, and an approximate project length of 2 weeks, the total taxpayer expenditure on goat employment should come to roughly \$7,560.
- Idaho’s unemployment rate is currently at 8.8%. While invasive weeds on state park land may be a problem, it is unclear how fighting their growth by employing 540 goats and two foreign herders will get Americans back to work.
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, \$2 million would not be spent on “weed control” or goat rentals. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Source:** <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/jul/21/goats-help-park-nip-problem-in-the-bud/>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip’s website:  
<http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus.